EVERY MONDAY No. 82 — SEPTEMBER 13th, 1986

22p
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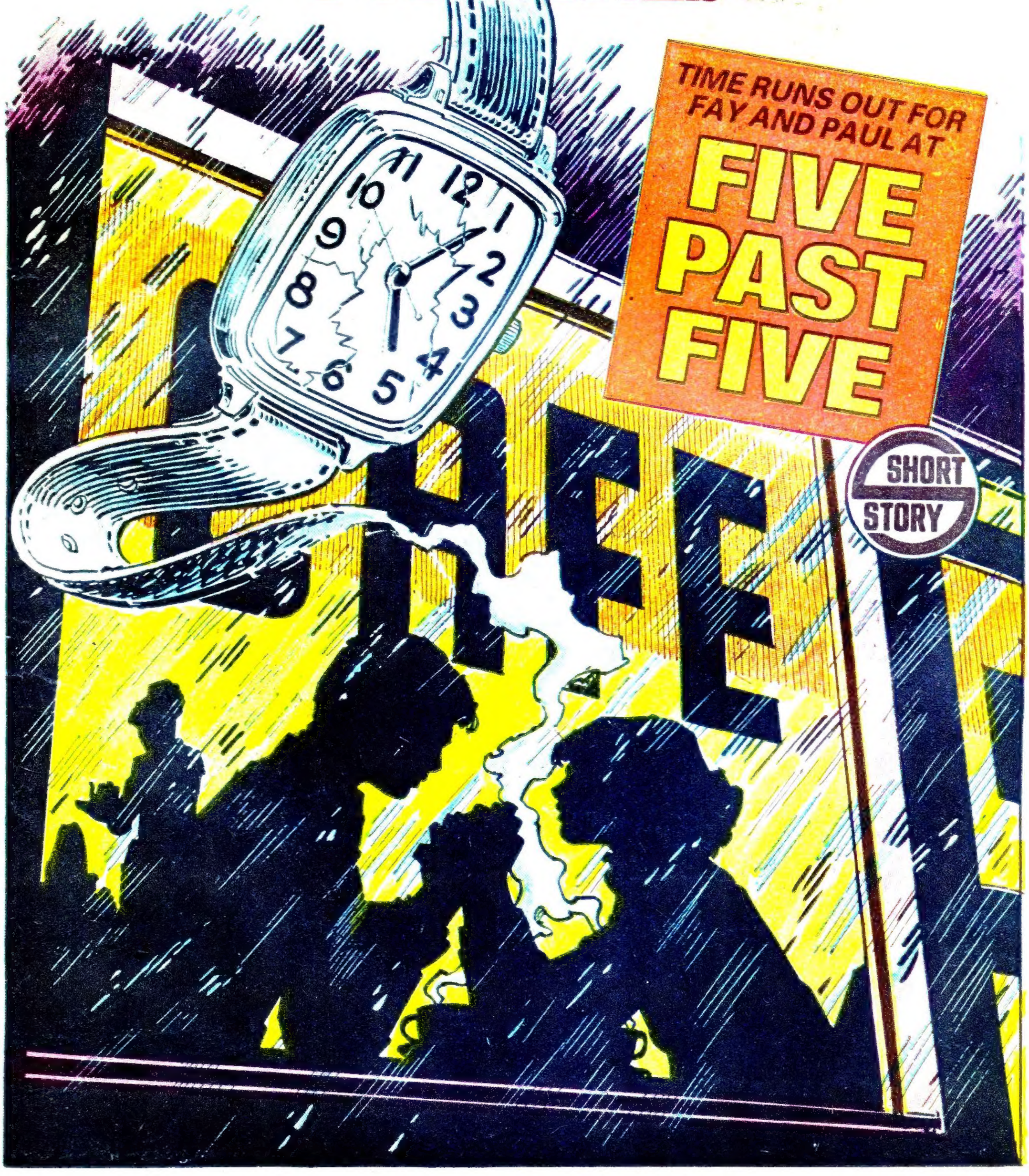
Nikki

FOR GIRLS



TALK SHOP

We're always pleased to hear our readers' views. So if you've got something to say, write to TALKSHOP and tell everyone.

We pay £2 for every letter printed and £5 for the No. 1 letter. Send your letters to TALKSHOP, "NIKKI", P.O. Box No. 305, London NW1 1TX. And please don't forget to mention your two favourite stories and features in "Nikki" when you write.

No. 1 SIMPLE SOLUTION

I'm writing in to give your readers a tip. How do you lose weight? Easy! A few months ago, I got a brace and have lost two stone since then! With a brace you can't eat Mars Bars, toffees etc. So it has fixed my teeth and done me another favour as well!

Caroline Maxwell, Glasgow.

It's a rather drastic way to lose weight though, if you don't need your teeth fixed!

FAMOUS BITE

I'd like to thank you for printing my letter in "I'm Famous!". I was so happy, that I ran across the road to my friend's house and I picked up her dog — and he bit me on the lip! Mum and Dad took me to the hospital and I ended up with three stitches in my lip.

Louise Hartland, Warley.

Better not tell your friend's dog about this letter, or he might bite you again!

LETTER FROM LEWIS

I would like to write and tell you about the Isle of Lewis. "Oh, where's that?" I hear you say. Hang on and I'll tell you. The Isle of Lewis is the biggest island in the Outer Hebrides. The main town is Stornoway and round about are what you would call "counties", these are NESS, UIG, WEST SIDE, POINT and LOCHS (North and South). I have to travel 28 miles to school by bus, getting up at 6.50 a.m. So don't complain about getting up at 7.45 a.m. and going about 6 miles to school. Think of us lot here!

Tamsin Barker, Isle of Lewis.

Can't say we envy you, Tamsin.

GREAT GRAN

We go to see my nan each day,
She does not live so far away,
She always smiles when she sees us,
And never seems to make a fuss.

She knits nice things for us to wear,
With patterns that are debonaire,
She gives us treats when we are good,
And cooks the most delicious food.

The sweets she makes are quite a dream,
Espcially the ones made with cream,
She goes to Bingo every week,
Her fortune there she tries to seek.

Of all the things she stood the test,
Because my nan she is the best.

Katherine Weaver, Worthing.

How does it feel to be a poet,
And write such charming verse?
We wish we were as good as you,
But unfortunately, we're werse!

NO T.V. PLEASE

I am just writing to say that every night for two hours, my mum makes us turn off the television and computer. Instead, we have to do something else. We cannot do homework. This past month or so I have been using liquid embroidery. It's some sort of paint in a tube. I have done some table napkins and a tray cloth. The table napkins have flowers on them and the tray cloth has got a mallard and some baby mallards on it. They look very nice (even if I say so myself).

Lorraine Newlands, Rotherham.

You can survive without the telly all that time? Please tell us the secret!

TIME AND TIME AGAIN

In a recent edition of "Nikki" you had an article about "TIME". I went to see it in April, but on arrival, we discovered that it was cancelled due to a stage fault. We rebooked and saw it on my birthday.

It was really good, especially when Chris Wilder (Cliff Richard) and his backing group (Babs, Carol and Louise) got lifted into space. We enjoyed it so much that we are going to see it again in October.

Maxine Rower, Farnborough.

Did you have the "time" of your lives?

NKI 13.9.86

MILLION STAMPS GIVEN
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Get your share—collection 221, Set Costumes, GB, valued over £1, TRIANGULAR ANIMALS, RAINBOW GIRL, ROYAL WEDDING, DISNEYLAND, MARY ROSE FLAGSHIP, DIAMOND ELEPHANT GIANT. Total 221 stamps FREE! Send 12p postage stamp and request approval selection of latest issues to ROSEBERY STAMP SERVICE (NJ), 29 Regents Way, Westmeads, Bognor, Sussex PO21 5QP.

LOOK! IT'S THE ANNUAL FOR GIRLS!

FOR STORIES
FOR FEATURES
FOR FUN

BEST BUY BUNTY

NOW ON SALE £2.65

ONE Saturday, Sam and Julie bumped into Marilyn in town—

Hi, you two! Come and help me choose an outfit for Tim's birthday party next week!

Boutique

Okay!

The Comp

What do you think of this?

It's nice! The colour suits you, too.

It's a bit pricey, though.

Oh, that's okay — I've been saving up my babysitting money. I want to stun everyone at this party!

Marilyn's dead lucky — having a steady boyfriend like Tim.

Yeah . . . though a short while ago I thought she'd chuck him — remember? When she found out he was two-timing her with a girl from his new school?

The last lesson on Monday was Geography—

Mr Smart's away — my sister told me. She said they got private study instead of Geography.

Hear that, Tony? That means we'll get the same! Come on!

NKI 13.9.86 (1)

Hey, where are you off to?

The library — to do our homework! No one'll miss us if it's just private study!

Yeah, so we'll be free to watch telly tonight!

But—

Mr Smart had planned to show you this film on coffee growing in Brazil today, so I'll just put it on instead.

Lucky Sprot and Tony — missing this!

Yeah, they'll be watching telly tonight while we're doing maths homework! I wish *I'D* thought of it!

Next day, Mr Smart was back—

Now, we'll start with a few questions about the film Mr Lewis showed you yesterday. Potter, you can start!

Eh?

But—

Can you tell us the principal areas where coffee beans are grown?

Poor Sprot! I'll write the answer down and pass it to him, or he'll be for it!

I'll take that, thanks, Samantha . . . hmm, so you need prompting do you, Potter? What happened — did you sleep right through the film?

Or did you decide to skip it, and hope you wouldn't be noticed? Expecting private study, were you?

Yes, sir.

I see . . . and were you all on our own, or did anyone else have the same idea?

I did, sir.

Well, this lunchtime you two can come to the Geography room, and see the film. Then you can write me a three page essay, to prove that you understood it.

Later, in Art—

Oh, no! Sorry, Kath!

My painting!

Oh, I'm really sorry, Kath — it was an accident — I'll tell Mr Cole it was all my fault.

Of *COURSE* it was your stupid fault, you clumsy fat idiot!

Don't you speak to my friend like that, Kath Watkins!

Going to stop me, are you, Parker? She *IS* fat and clumsy — and ugly, too!

Huh! *YOU'RE* no picture, yourself!

That's enough, girls! Back to your desk, everyone. Belinda, get a cloth.

Y-Yes, sir.

Later—

Poor Belinda — she's hardly said a word all lesson.

I know and it's Kath Watkins' fault! She really goes too far!

Hey, cheer up! You're not paying any attention to what *SHE* said, are you?

I — I *AM* fat and ugly.

ART ROOM

Don't be daft! That boy Brian fancied you, didn't he? *YOU* turned *HIM* down, remember?

Y-Yes . . I suppose so.

At lunch—

Hey — no dessert, Belinda? Come on — you're not going on a diet, just because of what Kath Watkins said, are you?

Well — I wouldn't mind losing a *FEW* pounds . . . but I'm going to do it sensibly. I'll just cut out sweets and puddings and stuff.

AND your mum's delicious coffee cake?

Well . . . I might not cut *EVERYTHING* out!

On Saturday, the night of Tim's party—

You look lovely, pet!

Now, don't forget! We'll pick you up at eleven, on our way back from the theatre.

Meanwhile, at Tim's house—

Hey, Tim — are you still seeing that kid from Redvale? Because if you ever fancied a change . . .

I don't, Jean, thanks. Oh — there's the bell. That'll be Marilyn now . . .

Hi! You look terrific!

Mm — Happy Birthday!

Later—

Hey, Tim — is there any more grub? I'm starving!

Yeah, sure! I'll get it!

Jean followed Tim into the kitchen—

Come here, Tim! I haven't given you a birthday kiss yet!

Huh?

Just then—

Hey, how long does it take to get a plate of — OH!

Marilyn, wait! SHE kissed ME!

So what? You weren't exactly fighting her off, were you?

Please, listen, Marilyn! I didn't want her to — honest! Can't you trust me?

No! I trusted you once before, remember? When you were two-timing me with that girl from your school!

Marilyn! Come back!

Just leave me alone! I never want to see you again!

It's no use ringing Mum and Dad — they won't be home. I'll have to get the bus!

Hoi!

Hello, darlin'!

Going our way, are you?

Here's the bus! Thank goodness! I can get away from this lot.

But—

Oh, no! They've followed me!

All alone are you, eh?

She's not very friendly, lads, is she?

Come on, darling. Tell us your name.

NKI 13.9.86 (6)

Will anyone come to Marilyn's rescue? Find out, NEXT WEEK!

SAM'S SECRET DIARY

SATURDAY

Went into town with Julie. Met Marilyn — she bought this ace dress for Tim's party.

Bought a pair of flat plastic shoes with the money Gran gave me for my birthday. They're white, so they'll go with anything. Lucy liked them, too, but luckily they're too big for her.

Got 'Hunting High And Low' with my record token. Julie was pleased — now I won't need to borrow her copy any more.

Met Julie again in the evening — went for a burger and a coke at the Wimpy. Wore my new shoes, and they were really sore. Think I'll have to wear them with socks.

SUNDAY

Got up early and went swimming with Julie. Think she was hoping that boy she met at the pool a couple of times would be there, but he wasn't. One of the lifeguards was really nice looking — two sixth-years were hanging round him chatting him up.

Sprot and Mike turned up, so we mucked about with them. They bought us a coke when we came out of the pool, which was nice of them.

Spent the afternoon in the house. Played a game of scrabble with Lucy, but she's hopeless at spelling, so I won easily.

TUESDAY

Dad reminded me it was Mum's birthday on Thursday. Wish he'd reminded me before, or I wouldn't have spent all my birthday money. He gave me an advance on my pocket money so I could buy something. Asked Lucy and Jon for money — John had 25p and Lucy had 75p. Got Mum a box of chocolates and a nice card.

Dead boring day at school — the only exciting thing that happened was when Sprot sneezed in Maths!

Lucy and Jon fought over who was going to wrap up Mum's present and write the card, so I did them.

THURSDAY

Mum's birthday. She liked her chocolates and the card. Dad gave her a jumper he chose himself, and it was nice, too — everybody was surprised!

Dad made breakfast, and we did the washing up. I volunteered to make the tea, but everyone just laughed. Dad said he'd bring in a Chinese carry-out. I had sweet and sour chicken — it was great, but I couldn't finish it. (Dad did, he's like a human vacuum cleaner!)

Did life-saving in swimming again. This time Miss Blake said I managed to save Julie's life instead of drowning her like I almost did last time!

Trouble when Topcliffe and Valley Comp meet on a school outing!

"We'll Stay Friends!"

SALLY CARSTAIRS and Caroline Blake had both sat the same scholarship exam but only Sally had passed.

However, both girls were determined that attending different schools wasn't going to stop them from being friends.

I'm sorry I couldn't see you the other night, Caroline, but I really did have lots of homework.

I know, Sally, and *I'M* sorry if I seem to be spending too much time with Sharon, but I've got to be friends with *SOMEBODY* at school!

It's not as bad as it sounds! There's an exhibition of historic costumes there. I promise you'll like it!

Miss Young's nice. I really like being at Topcliffe.

Next day—

Have you heard about our treat, girls? Miss Young's taking us to the museum!

Oh, no!

Barbara's good fun! Caroline was right — everybody should have a friend at school.

At the museum—

Caroline!

Hi, Sally!

Hmph! Fancy having friends at Valley Comprehensive! I've heard it's a real dump!

Well, whoever told you that, must have been as stupid as you are!

Yeah — fancy wearing stupid outfits like that!

Do you think it suits me?

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Give that back, you!

NKI 13.9.86

Suddenly—

What on earth is going on here? Give me that hat back, you young hooligan!

S-Sorry, miss.

Then—

Don't you call *MY* pupils hooligans! *YOUR* spoiled brats are just as bad!

There were faults on both sides, but I don't think we should discuss this in front of the children!

I bet Miss Young wouldn't have brought us if she'd known *THEY* were here!

Toffee-nosed snobs!

Oh, dear! I wonder what Sally will think of us after that little incident?

Later—

You can imagine how tired the ladies got carrying these head-dresses around.

These grand clothes were never washed and the lords and ladies who wore them seldom took a bath!

The two parties met up again—

Oh, isn't that ball gown beautiful? I wish I'd lived in those days!

Huh! If she *HAD* lived then she would have been working in the kitchens — not dancing at the ball!

I've had enough of you!

OOF!

I think you'd really suit that, Gloria.

Yes — so long as she remembered to wear the mask!

NKI 13.9.86

Don't you think you can push me around and get away with it, you Topcliffe twit!

AAARGH!

Just then—

What on earth is happening here!

She pushed me!

Take your girls away at once, Miss Young. I hope this dreadful child will be dealt with severely!

No — wait! It wasn't all Gloria's fault. They were both being silly.

Gloria only pushed Sharon, because Sharon was teasing her.

I think both schools should leave at once and I hope that all those involved will be punished.

Back at Valley Comprehensive, Caroline was in trouble, too—

Fancy prefering a Topcliffe snob to someone from your own school! You're no friend of mine!

I *DON'T* prefer Gloria! I think she's horrible, but I couldn't let her take all the blame!

Things weren't much better for Sally—

You can't blame them for sending you to Coventry, Sally. After all, you made it worse for Gloria by admitting she pushed Sharon first.

But she *DID* — and I couldn't let Sharon take all the blame. I thought you would understand!

NKI 13.9.86

That night—

I feel rotten! Barbara's hardly speaking to me and you've lost Sharon's friendship altogether!

Oh, I don't really mind about Sharon, as long as *WE'VE* still got each other. That's the most important thing! Nothing's going to come between us!

NEXT WEEK — Sally is almost expelled for breaking a school rule!

Super FREE Competition

50 Bird's LUNCH BOXES TO BE WON!

Ever wanted to be top of the class? Well, now you can be. Bird's are offering 50 "Nikki" readers the chance to win super new lunchboxes filled with their delicious Ready To Eat Desserts.

All you have to do to enter our competition is study the two pictures below of children eating lunch in the playground. They look exactly the same — but if you take a closer look, you will be able to spot ten differences between the two pictures.

Write your name and address on the form and ring round the differences in ball-point pen. Then, post your form to Bird's Lunchbox Competition, "Nikki", P.O. Box No. 305, London, NW1 1TX. The senders of the first 50 correct forms chosen after the closing date, September 27, will each win a Bird's lunchbox. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is open to all residents of the U.K. except for employees and their families of General Foods Ltd., and anyone directly concerned with the competition.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

NKI 13.9.86

THE POWER OF EVE BLACK

BY drinking a special potion, Miss Bennett, popular Head of the Marie Watt Boarding School for Girls, could become a pupil, the detested Eve Black.

One day, in the Head's study—

Andrea! What are you doing in my study? What's that you've got?

I . . . I was looking for the tennis entry forms and I . . . I found this. It's an old photo with Eve Black in it!

Rubbish, Andrea! There's a certain likeness, perhaps. But that girl's name is Maura Keen.

A few minutes later, outside Miss Bennett's office—

Andrea Bowman? I'd like to ask you a few questions.

Inspector Boyd was investigating an accident in which Jody Patrick had been injured. Someone had tampered with Jody's bicycle and Eve Black saw to it that the blame was placed on Andrea.

But Jody's my best friend. I never tampered with her brakes.

I think you'd better come with me.

That gets rid of Andrea! Now I'll have life here all my own way!

And—

Right, I need my blouse and things ironed for the disco in town tonight, so get moving!

All right, Eve.

Meanwhile—

Wh . . . where are we going? This isn't how you get to the police station. It's the way to the hospital.

That's right. Jody's come out of her coma, so I think we should see what *SHE* has to say about all this.

And—

Jody, oh Jody — I'm so glad you've recovered.

Thanks, Andrea. The doctor says I should be fine soon.

Andrea would never harm me, Inspector.

I can see that, Jody, but I had to find out the truth.

On the way back to the school, Andrea told Inspector Boyd about Eve Black, and explained about the photograph—

Perhaps there is a connection. Be careful, anyway. Whoever tampered with those brakes will stop at nothing.

Hello, Eve. You look surprised to see me.

POLICE

Surprised? Why should I be?

Because you tried to blame me for Jody's accident, that's why. But your days are numbered, Eve.

Huh! I don't know what you're talking about.

She doesn't frighten me! I'll deal with her in my *OWN* way! And this time there'll be no mistake!

A day or two later—

Andrea, I need your help. It's urgent.

Of course, Miss Bennett.

But before Miss Bennett could speak—

Aaaaah . . . Eve, stop!

Eve?

Without another word, Miss Bennett rushed off to her room—

Miss Bennett. Miss Bennett . . . are you all right?

Of course, my dear. I'm just going to have a lie down. Go back to your class.

What's Eve Black doing, coming out of Miss Bennett's room?

Miss Bennett's not here! But I don't understand! She was here a few minutes ago. Where could she have gone?

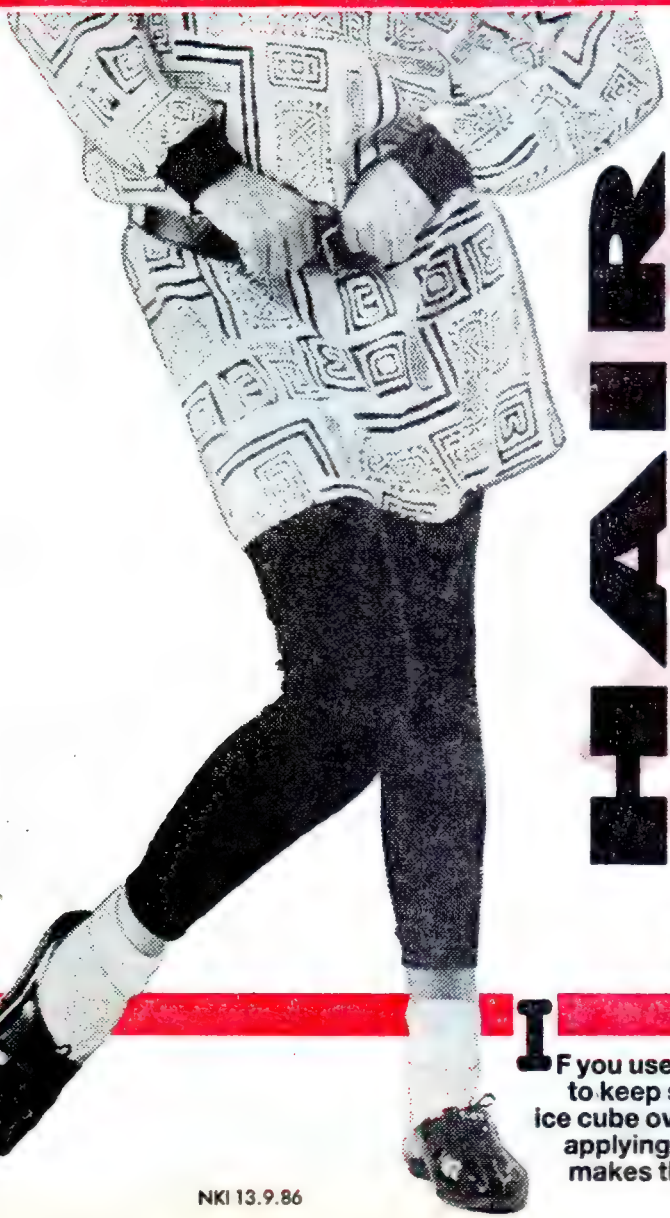
She couldn't have climbed down from the window. That leaves only one explanation! But that's not possible!

NKI. 13.9.86(2)

NEXT WEEK — Eve tries to kill Andrea!

OH YOU

THE summer print story carries on into autumn, as this outfit from Littlewoods Autumn/Winter catalogue shows. Printed shirt dress £17.99/£19.99, PVC belt £4.99, leggings £5.99/£7.99. Items available from catalogue agents.



HAIR

Invest in some ribbon in different widths and colours — it's a great way to highlight your hair!

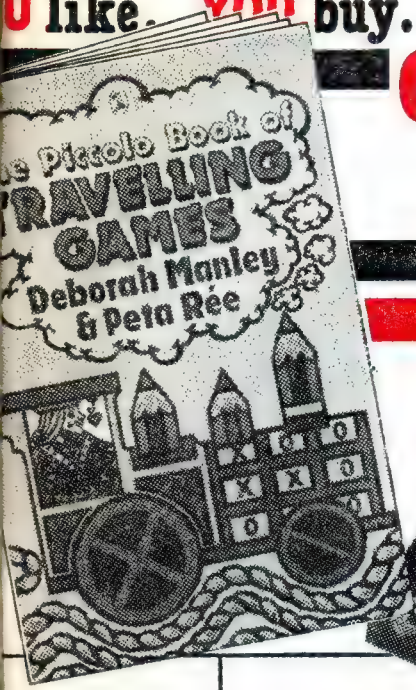
Take ribbon under your hair at the back, and tie in a bow at the top. Or make a bow from a shorter piece of ribbon and fasten it to your hair with grips.

Long hair? Plait it to one side and finish off with a ribbon.

Taking small widths of ribbon, take a few pieces and make some bows anywhere you fancy. Choose the colour to match your clothes.

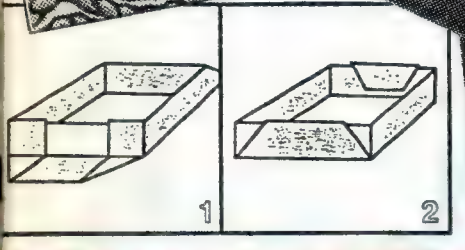
IF you use a medicated lotion to keep spots at bay, rub an ice cube over your face before applying it! It's said that this makes the lotion work even better. Brr . . .

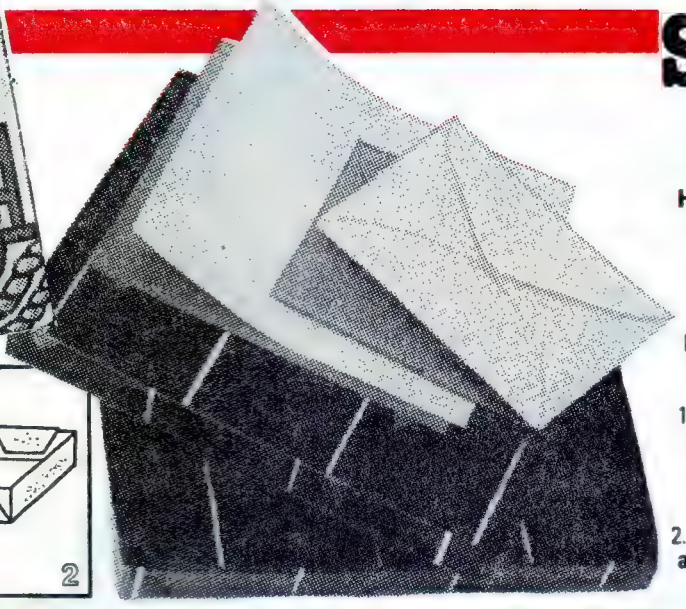
NKI 13.9.86



OFF on a journey? You'll have no chance to get bored if you take this book along! There's over two hundred games you can try out, songs to sing and puzzles to play.

Read The Piccolo Book of Travelling Games **by** Deborah Manley and Peta Rée (Piccolo £1.95).





STOP and think before you throw an empty box away! We covered this empty chocolate box with wrapping paper from the Hallmark range and turned it into a handy store for stationery.

The box was easy to cover — simply follow the diagram below! Both the base and lid are wrapped in the same way.

1. **Cut the paper to a size that will fold over the sides and inside the box. Bring the paper over the sides and secure.**
2. **Fold the remaining flaps up and over the ends of the box, then secure.**

THE colours you wear are just as important as what you wear — everyone has colours they look good in, and a splash of colour can brighten up the plainest of outfits.

One way to keep up with the changing colours of fashion, or simply to alter an outfit you're bored with, is to use dye. Dylon, the dye people, have a range of dyes in a variety of fashionable colours.

To help you decide the type of dye you'll need, and how best to use it, Dylon have produced a 12-page booklet, "The Dylon Collection". To obtain your copy, send a stamped addressed envelope (6" x 9") to Dylon International, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, London, SE26 5HD.

IF you're concerned about buying beauty products which may have been tested on animals, you may be interested in a leaflet produced by Animal Aid. It lists companies who do not test their products on animals, and is available to everyone who sends an SAE to Animal Aid, 7 Castle Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BH. Please mention which leaflet you are interested in.

THE Redwings Horse Sanctuary rescues horses, ponies and donkeys from neglect and slaughter, and looks after them for the rest of their days.

There are lots of ways you can help the Sanctuary — £1 is all it needs to join, and if you'd like to adopt a horse or pony, £5 is the minimum donation for a year.

The Sanctuary also sells gifts by mail order, and you can choose from a wide selection including pens, notepaper, mugs, T-shirts and thimbles.

For further details, write to Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hill Top Farm, Hall Lane, Frettenham, Nr Norwich, Norfolk, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

An eerie coincidence happens at . . .

FIVE past FIVE

SHORT STORY

FAY CHARLTON and Paul Vaughan had been going out together for several months—

See you after school, Fay!

Okay. I'll meet you by the front gate, Paul. 'Bye!

It must be nice having a steady boyfriend. You're really lucky, Fay.

Mm, I can't imagine ever going out with anyone else!

But, a few days later—

What's the matter, Paul? You've been really quiet all day.

I know. There's something I have to tell you, Fay. It's about my dad . . .

You know he's been out of work for months? Well, he's been offered a job at last, but it's in the south of England, over two hundred miles away.

What! You mean you're moving?

We have to. Dad doesn't want to live down there alone, so the whole family's got to go. He put our house up for sale yesterday.

Oh, Paul! We'll never see each other again!

We can meet up in the holidays and write and phone.

But it won't be the same! Oh, Paul! It's going to be awful!

NKI 13.9.86 (/)

Fay's friends were sympathetic—

What a shame, Fay!

Still, like Paul says, it doesn't have to be the end of everything. You can still keep in touch.

But Fay's mother didn't agree—

If I were you, love, I'd make a clean break when Paul leaves. You're only thirteen. You don't want to be tied to a boy who's two hundred miles away.

But I don't *WANT* to go out with anyone else!

A few weeks later—

That's it, Fay. The house is sold. We're leaving on Friday.

Oh, Paul, I'm really going to miss you.

After Paul left, his letters and phone calls became the most important things in Fay's life—

Are you coming to the disco tonight, Fay?

Not tonight, Ann. I'm expecting a phone call from Paul.

Fay spent a lot of time writing to Paul—

"Dear Paul, I must tell you the latest school gossip. Miss Parsons is leaving at the end of term. Apparently she thinks we're too noisy to teach . . .

Fay's friends did their best to help—

I know you don't fancy the disco, but would you like to go to the cafe after school?

Well . . . yeah, all right then.

It'll make a change, I suppose, and I can be back home before Paul rings.

That boy playing the space invaders hasn't moved in half an hour!

I bet he wouldn't even notice if I threw this glass of juice all over him!

Don't you dare! We'll get chucked out!

That was a good laugh, eh, Fay? We'll have to do that again.

Okay.

Bye! See you tomorrow.

I know Joyce and Ann are trying to take my mind off Paul, but they won't make me forget him.

Suddenly—

Fay!

Paul! What are *YOU* doing here?

NKI 13.9.86(a)

Hey! Look out!

She stepped straight off the pavement without looking. She didn't stand a chance . . .

Later, at the Charltons' house—

Was that Fay on the phone?

N-No, it was someone else.

I can't think where Fay's got to. She's always home from school by now. It's nearly seven o'clock. Oh — there's someone at the door.

I'll go.

I'm sorry to be the bearer of such bad news, but there's been an accident. Your daughter didn't suffer. She was killed instantly.

F-Fay's dead? No, I-I can't believe it.

Here are the personal belongings she had — her school bag and her watch.

Oh! It's stopped at five past five. That must have been when the accident happened.

Later—

How are we going to tell Paul about this? They still kept in contact even after he moved. He was very fond of her.

We don't have to tell Paul, love.

NKI 13.9.86(3)

What do you mean? Of course we must tell him.

No. You see, that phone call we got earlier was from Paul's mother. She was phoning to say there'd been an accident. Paul was travelling in his school's mini-bus when it crashed. He was killed instantly.

And the odd thing is, it happened at exactly five past five . . .

THE END

Why must Angela Murray keep her boyfriend a secret? Find out, NEXT WEEK.

STREET SMART

HIT the streets in style and lead the fashion crowd.

NKI 13.9.86

Striped skirt £6.99, top £3.99, jacket £10.99.

Skirt £8.99, cardigan £6.99.

Ribbed leggings, £4.99, matching top £3.99, tailed jacket, £10.99.

All garments from C & A.

STARSPOT

Week ending September 13

Virgo (Aug 22-Sept 21)

Don't make any rash promises this week since a sudden change of plan could force you to let a few people down. Wear yellow for luck.

Libra (Sept 22-Oct 22)

Be happy for a friend or relation who's having a good time for a change. Their good mood may make them treat you unusually well.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)

A phone call or letter from someone you haven't seen a lot of lately could bring news of a surprise romance. The only problem may be money worries.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 20)

If you don't fancy going to a big get-together, don't go. No one expects you to be the life and soul of every party, so relax and don't worry.

Capricorn (Dec 21-Jan 19)

Things should go well this week so make the most of it by being a bit more daring. Friends will also be full of bright ideas to liven life up.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

News of a scheme to help others could be in the air. If so, enlist the help of all your friends and have fun while you work. You won't regret it.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)

A surprise celebration may be planned for someone fairly close to you. Check all the arrangements for this carefully to avoid any last minute panic.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

After a recent split you should be reunited with someone who means a lot to you. A happy week looks likely — even where money's concerned!

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Don't be tempted to spread any gossip until you've checked whether or not it's true. You'll only fall out with the people concerned if you do.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Some kind of change at home looks possible in the near future, but relax because it looks like being one which will please everyone.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

People around you may be a bit puzzled at your constant happiness, but they certainly won't complain. An old friend may be grateful for your help.

Leo (July 22-Aug 21)

Lots of small urgent tasks may prevent you from relaxing much this week, but they won't last forever. A long peaceful period is approaching.

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IT'S FOR YOO-HOO

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- SPANDAU BALLET
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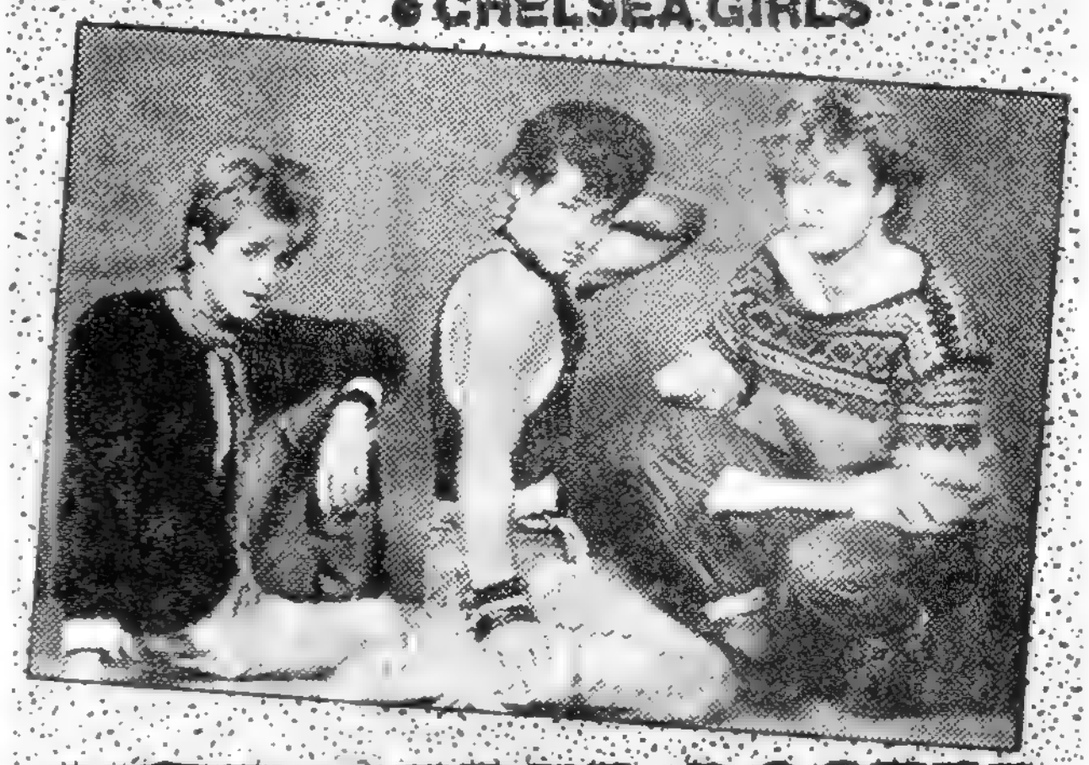

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ISSUE DATED SEPT 13

THE TRUTH ABOUT TERRI

SARAH CARTER had just started at Elmway School, but already she had discovered the truth about Terri Northam, the most popular girl in the school. Terri cheated and lied to get her own way and had even managed to get another girl, who knew the truth about her, expelled! But who would believe Sarah?

Are you putting your name down for the Poetry Competition, Sue? You're pretty good at that sort of thing.

Yes, but I see Terri's got her name down. She seems to win everything around here.

That's true, but Sue's really good at drama, and she's got a lovely voice. She should beat Terri easily.

I've just put my name down for the fun of it, Sue. I'll do my best, of course, but I really hope you'll win.

You're pretty good at acting yourself, Terri. You almost had me believing what you just said. Or don't you really care about winning the Poetry Reading Competition?

But just suppose that Sue is better than you? There's nothing you can do about that.

Isn't there? I mean, suppose something terrible happened to her voice on the day of the competition?

Gosh! How two-faced can you get? If only the others knew what Terri was *REALLY* like.

I win everything I go in for, Sarah. After all, I've got to keep up my reputation of being the cleverest, most popular girl in the school.

On the morning of the competition —

There's Terri buying a couple of ice-cream cones. Oh, no! One of them is for Sue. She could sprinkle something horrible on it. I have to stop her.

I can't believe anybody could be so nasty! She doesn't care about anyone! I think I'll keep an eye on Sue. Terri might put something in her food.

NKI 13.9.86 (1)

Hi! How's — oops!

That was rather clumsy, Sarah.

Look what you've done, Sarah! Sue's got ice-cream all over her jacket.

I'm sorry, Sue. I'll get you another ice-cream.

Don't bother! Just get lost, will you?

At lunchtime —

The Poetry Reading is after lunch, so if Terri is going to slip anything into Sue's food, it'll be now. Oh, no! There's Terri getting the coffees. It wouldn't be difficult for her to drop something into Sue's coffee. I'll have to time this very carefully . . .

Hi! Mind if I join you?

Sure, Sarah. There's plenty of room.

Oh, no! Not again! Have you got it in for me, Sarah? That's the second time today!

Maybe Sarah is trying to unnerve you for the Poetry Reading this afternoon, Sue?

Well — what a cheek!

Sarah was first to read in the competition —

I'm sorry I annoyed Sue, but it was worth it if I stopped Terri from doing anything nasty to her.

I know exactly what you're up to, Sarah, but I'm afraid I'm a little more subtle than you think. All you've done is to make yourself unpopular. Sue won't win, so save yourself the trouble.

"And what is friendship but a name . . ."

Oh, dear! I'm reading really badly. Worrying about what Terri's going to do to Sue is putting me off.

I don't stand a chance of winning, but I don't care. I'm more bothered about Sue. She seems okay at the moment though — just a little nervous.

NKI 13.9.86(t)

Soon it was Sue's turn —

Here, have a drink of water, Sue. It'll help your cough.

Thanks, Sarah. I always cough when I get nervous.

But, when Sue started to read—

"O think n-not my Spirits, b-by . . ." I-I'm sorry, I'll start again . . .

Oh, no! What's wrong? Sue's cough's got even worse!

"And the h-heart that is soonest awake to — to . . ."

She's reading terribly. Surely it can't just be nerves.

You're quite right, Sarah. It's *NOT* just nerves . . .

A little shake of pepper in the glass of water which you handed her, caused her cough. Pepper does terrible things to your throat. Here — catch!

Then Sue spotted the pepper-pot —

A pepper-pot! So that was it! I'll get you for this, Sarah!

B — But, *I* didn't do it!

Terri's so cunning. I just caught the pepper-pot automatically when she threw it. I must look really guilty.

Hard luck, Sue!

Terri's sympathising with Sue when it's all her fault in the first place!

After Sue's terrible reading, Terri easily won the competition —

Terri's done it again. Someone else gets the blame while she gets all the credit. She'll still be everyone's friend, and I'll have none at all once they hear about how I supposedly put pepper in Sue's water. I wish I could tell everyone what Terri's really like, but who would believe me?

Just because *YOU* did badly, you couldn't bear to see anyone else do any better! I hate you, Sarah!

But, Sue, I — *AAH!*

NKI 13.9.86(3)

NEXT WEEK — Terri gets her revenge when someone else becomes the centre of attention!

PEOPLE . . . PUZZLES . . . NEWS . . . FACTS . . . FACES . . . GOSSIP . . .

MINX

NINO MAKES A SPLASH!

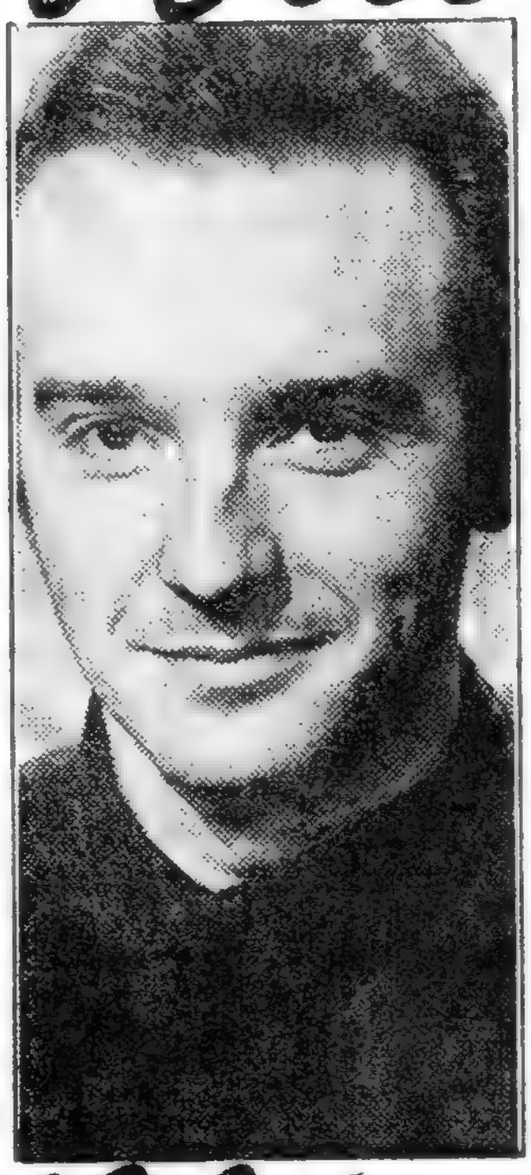
Fans of "Splash", and those of you who manage to struggle out of bed on a Saturday morning to watch "Get Fresh!" have probably noticed Nino Firetto. Not bad looking, eh? But apparently his good looks are causing him a few problems — he keeps getting mobbed by fans! Nino told us about the time the Pet Shop Boys appeared on "Get Fresh!".

"We had all these security guys laid on for the Pet Shop Boys," explained Nino, "but they walked out with no trouble at all. I was the one who couldn't get out. You expect it with pop stars, but it's a really strange predicament for a presenter to be in."

In fact, poor Nino can't even go shopping in peace.

"I even get followed around shops," he said, "that's the worst thing. My mum can't believe it!"

MIGHTY MIDGE



Fans of Ultravox and Midge Ure will be pleased to know that there's a new Ultravox album coming out in the autumn, and they might also be touring as well.

According to Midge, "The album will be simpler than some of the old material, but of course there will be some classical touches from Billy Currie. The album will also be a bit earthier, but it's still going to be very stimulating."

Apart from their own "stimulating" album, though, Midge doesn't think much of the current state of music.

"There seems to be little really positive music coming through," he says. "I think it's time for some kind of explosion again, some kind of kick in the pants."

Come on then, Midge!!

NKI 13.9.86

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE . . .

Good news and bad news for Amazulu. The good news is that they've notched up another hit with their single, "Too Good To Be Forgotten", and the bad news is that half the band have left! Where once they had seven members, there are now just three — singer Anne-Marie Ruddock, and the two founding members Sharon Baily and Lesley Beach.

Apparently, their manager and record company decided that Amazulu weren't making enough money to support all seven members and so someone had to go.

"The split is quite friendly," says Sharon. "Obviously they're upset that they've put four years into a career and it's ended up like this. Everyone realises it's not our fault. It's not something we can do anything about."

QUICK QUIZ

These singles all reached No. 1 — or did they? See if you can remember which ones actually made the top of the charts.

1. *Rock Me Amadeus — Falco*
2. *Manic Monday — Bangles*
3. *Wonderful World — Sam Cooke*
4. *Living Doll — Cliff Richard and The Young Ones*
5. *A Different Corner — George Michael*
6. *Chain Reaction — Diana Ross*
7. *Eloise — The Damned*
8. *Train of Thought — A-ha*

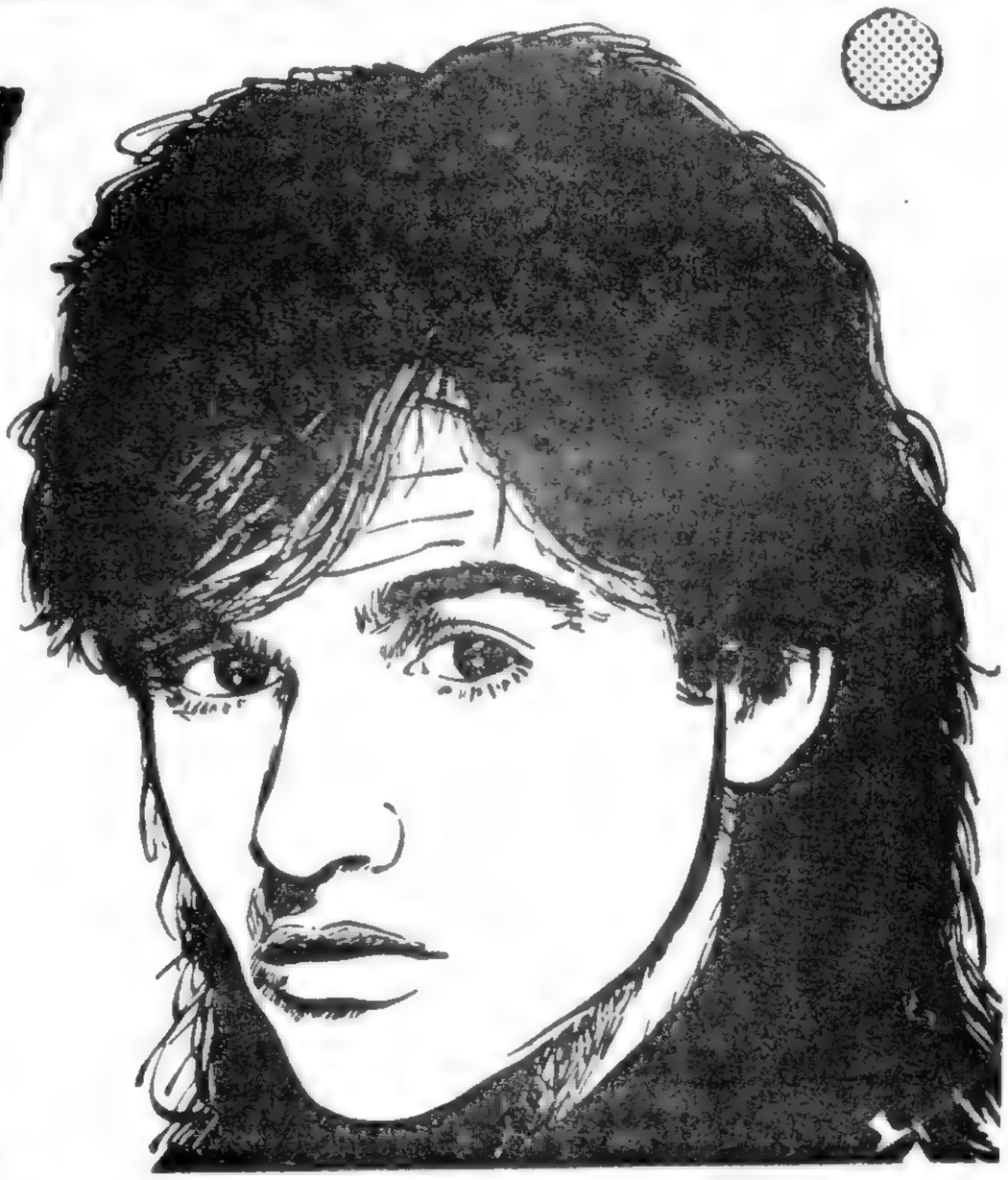
Answers

1. Yes 2. No 3. No 4. Yes 5. Yes 6. Yes 7. No 8. No

FACT FILE

NAME: **Owen McGee**
BIRTHDATE: **May 1st, 1962**
BIRTHPLACE: **Glasgow**
HEIGHT: **1.73 m. (5' 8")**
WEIGHT: **56 kg. (124 lb.)**
LIVES: **London**
PREVIOUS JOBS: **Jeans model, worked with children**
HOBBIES: **Sport, photography**
FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMMES: **Brookside, Question Time**
FAVOURITE MUSIC: **The Clash, U2**
FAVOURITE FOOD: **Italian**

OWEN PAUL



"I'VE GOT A PROBLEM..."

If something's troubling you and you think we can help, write to us at PROBLEM PAGE, "Nikki", P.O. Box No 305, London NW1 1TX. If your problem needs an immediate answer, try having a chat with your mum, big sister or a close friend. They'll be only too pleased to help.

HORRIBLE HANDS

I am eight years old and my main problem is that I bite the skin around the side of my nails. It looks horrible but I can't seem to stop. Please try to help.

A-ha fan, Doncaster.

Like nail biting, this is a habit which can only be broken if you make a determined effort to keep your hands away from your mouth.

In school, ask your friends — even teachers — to tell you when you start to nibble without noticing, and at home wear gloves, sit on your hands, or find some way to keep them occupied. Hopefully, you'll soon forget you ever bit the skin around your fingers.

SMOKING SIGH

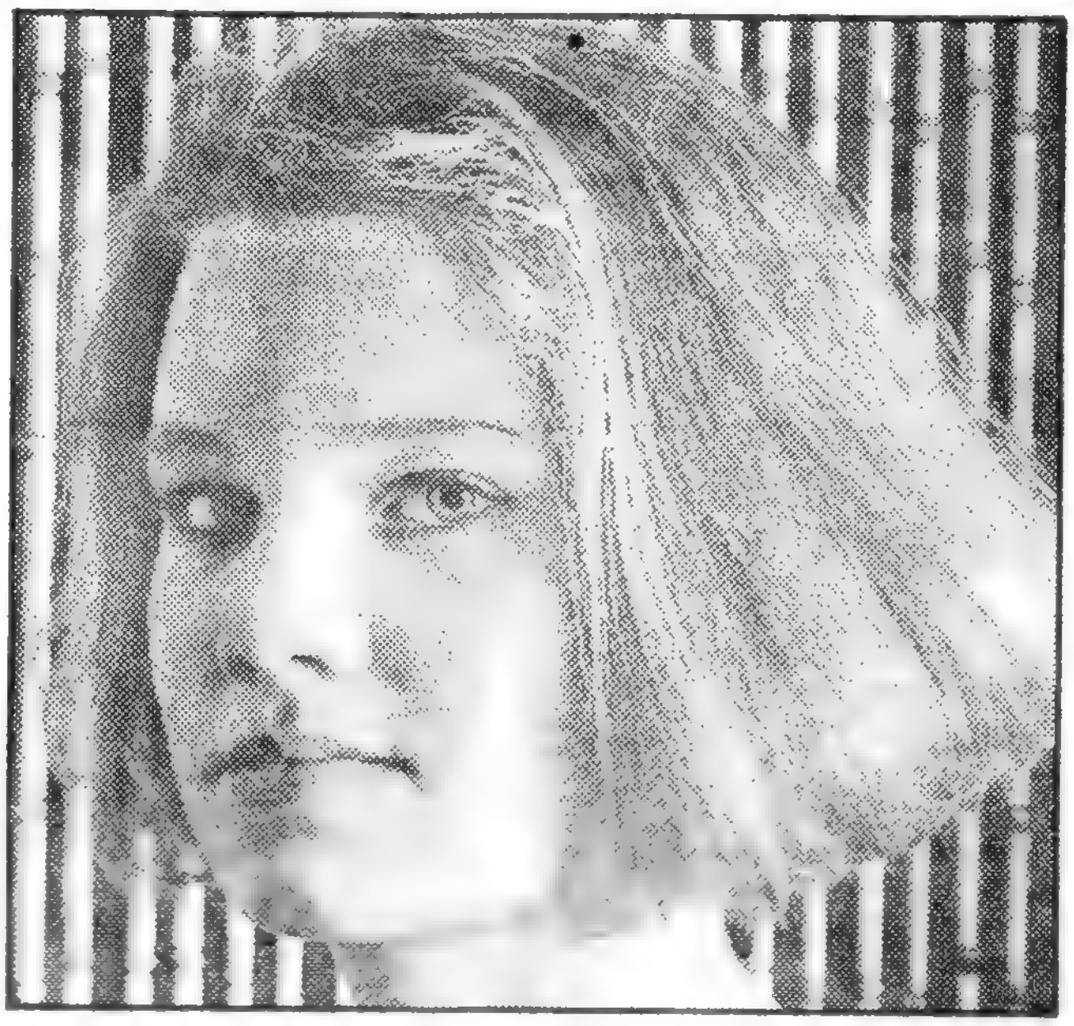
My mum gave up smoking for about a year but I have just found out that she has started again. This upsets me very much as I am worried about what it might do to her. She has also become more bad tempered since she took it up.

What should I do?

Madonna fan, Brickhill.

Smoking is one of the most difficult habits to give up and your mum's probably a bit irritable because she feels guilty about starting again.

We're sure she's aware of all the dangers involved in smoking, so all you can do is tell her how concerned you are and give her all the support you can if she tries to give it up again.



"HELP!"

Please help me! I am quite short and plump. I wear glasses and I have lots of spots. Everyone laughs at me at school and to top it all I have hairy legs. Please print this letter and give me some advice.

Miserable Rambo fan, London.

Okay, you're not perfect, but who is? We bet that for every fault you've mentioned there's something nice about you — like your eyes, hands, teeth or hair. No one is perfect. We're all just trying to make the best of what we've got.

In your case, you can't help being small or having to wear glasses, but if you don't like your glasses you could always consider trying contact lenses. As far as your weight goes, pay a visit to your doctor, find out how much, if any, you have to lose and combine healthy eating with exercise for the best results.

You could have spots simply because you're growing up, but combining a healthy diet and careful skin care should help to keep your skin clear.

And if you don't like having hairy legs, why not shave them, or use one of the many depilatory creams available from chemists?

On you go! Tackle your problems one by one and we're sure you'll soon look and feel much better.

HORSE RIDING HOPE

My problem is that I want to start horse-riding but I don't know what to do, or where to go and ask. What do you think I should do? Could you please tell me where to find out information about horse-riding?

Julia, Eastleigh.

The best thing to do is look up horse-riding or pony schools in the yellow pages of your local directory. This will give you the addresses of the schools nearest you. Next, phone up some of them to enquire how much lessons or treks are, and how long they last, then choose the one that's most suitable.

If any of your friends go riding, perhaps they'd be able to recommend a school, too.

DATING DILEMMA

Recently a really nice boy asked me out. However, my mum won't allow me to go out on dates. The only time I could go with him would be on a Saturday so my mum wouldn't know, but I hate the thought of lying to her.

Worried Nikki fan.

Whatever you do, don't lie to your mum. Losing her trust is too high a price to pay just to be able to see a boy. Instead, try to approach her and see if you can invite the boy round one day so that she can get to know him. Once she gets to know and trust him she may feel happier about letting the two of you go out together.

EX-FRIEND

I haven't spoken to my best friend for nearly six months. You see, she began to get on my nerves a bit, so I dumped her. I now realise how stupid I was and would do anything to have her back. However, she's made friends with another girl and also hangs around with four or five others. She seems very happy with them. Please can you help me to confront her and be her friend again. I really miss her.

Nikki reader, Co. Dublin.

It's always hard to say you're sorry — especially when you've hurt someone, but if you're really sure you want your friend back, then you're going to have to swallow your pride and do just that. Talk to her on her own either on the phone or at her house and tell her what you've told us. We hope things work out, but even if she does agree to be your friend again you're going to have to resign yourself to sharing her with her new friends.

NKI 13.9.86

We regret that letters can only be answered on this page. No correspondence can be entered into.

Sandra takes revenge when the girls pretend to be friendly!

IT'S NO SECRET!

It's too nice a day to spend your free afternoon indoors. Out you go into the fresh air!
Here Sandra, you can play with this!
Er — does anyone have any ideas what we can play?
They're all ignoring me.
I fancy sneaking down to the village for coffee and cake, but Sandra's bound to tell Miss Jenner!
Don't worry! I know how to get rid of her!
Let's play hide and seek. You can be "it", Sandra. Count to one hundred, then come and find us.
Okay!
This is the first time the girls have asked me to join in anything. Maybe they want to be my friends at last!
But ten minutes later —
It's no good hunting for the other young ladies! I saw 'em head off to the village.
Oh! And I thought they were being friendly!

AFTER a serious illness Sandra Paul became a pupil at Foley Towers Boarding School, where the headmistress, an old friend of Sandra's parents, promised to keep an eye on her.

This special treatment made the other girls think that Sandra was the Head's pet and they kept a lot of secrets from her.

However, Sandra had been granted a wish which meant she could read the other girls' thoughts.

NKI 13.9.86(1)

Meanwhile —
Hey, you lot! We're going for a coffee! Want to come?
Yeah! Here, kick the ball back!
And —
Goal!
Oh, no!
HENFIELD NURSERY GARDEN
CRASH
Oops! That sounded like one of Mr Henfield's glasshouses!
And here comes Sandra Paul! That's all we need! She'll run straight to the Head if she finds out what's happened. Look, I'll keep her out of the way while you try to sort it out.
Aw, you found us after all, Sandra. I knew you'd track us down. We're going to treat you to some coffee and cake from the café.
Huh! What's the catch?
So —
This morning I didn't have a friend in the world, and now they're falling over themselves to be friendly! I'm going to find out what's going on. I'll read their thoughts.
I'm glad we got Sandra out of the way before Mr Henfield came out about that crash!
Thank goodness I stopped Mr Henfield from coming to complain to Miss Lock! I've got to spend all my free time working for him until the damage is paid for!
What a stupid little secret! It's hardly worth bothering about!
NKI 13.9.86 (2)

But I can't forgive them for pretending to be friendly, then dropping me again! I'd like to see them suffer for that!

Over the next few days, Milly worked hard —

You're spending at least an hour a day at the nursery! Mr Henfield must be a right old slave-driver!

He is! He had me weeding the biggest flower bed I'd ever seen today!

He's not going to let me off until next week. We broke two panes of glass, as well as a valuable plant, but it's worth all the hard work to make sure Miss Lock doesn't find out.

I wouldn't be too sure of that!

Next day —

I heard Miss Lock telling the gardener that she was going to prune her roses today, so I'm going to make sure that she can't find her pruning shears.

I wish I could find my pruning shears! I don't have another decent pair, and I'd like to do the roses today.

Perhaps Miss Lock should visit Mr Henfield? He sells pruning shears in his garden shop.

I might get another pair at Henfield's Nursery, Mr Foxton? Thank you! I'll hurry down there straight away!

I think *I'LL* take a walk that way too.

And, at the nursery garden —

Milly! You know it's forbidden to earn pocket money with part-time jobs!

Oh, this ain't for pocket money, ma'am! She's paying for the damage she did with that football!

Milly's got some explaining to do, but it's her own fault! None of this would have happened if she hadn't been so nasty to me!

PEAT

PEAT

NKI 13.9.86 (3)

Sandra is left out of a secret trip to the fair, NEXT WEEK!

Bike Shed Wall

KAREN ROSS LUVS ALAN SMALL.

TITCH, MUCHTY.

Hi, girls! Got something to say? Got a message for a friend? Well, don't keep it to yourself — tell everyone else by having it painted on our wall.

Send your messages to Bike Shed Wall, "Nikki", P.O. Box No. 305, London NW1 1TX.

NICOLE + HARRIS.

NICOLE WHELDON.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, BRIDGET!

LINDA DOWLING, KILKENNY.

HI THERE, FRIZZLY FROG!

GAIL AND JOANNA.

ADMIT YOU STILL LOVE VIKKY, NEIL!

SARA TREELY, DEVON.

PRIMARY 7/6 RULE O.K.

LYNSAY DRYLIE, ROSYTH.

NKI 13.9.86

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